Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 (MSS 82)

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**BIOGRAPHY**

Paul Douglas Aton, only child of Loyd Simpson Aton and Roberta Patricia Townsend Aton (1916-1955), was born in El Paso, Texas, on 9 October 1948. After attending Franklin-Simpson High School in Franklin, Kentucky, Paul enlisted in the United States Army at Nashville, Tennessee, on 25 October 1967. Completing basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in January 1968, Paul received training also at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Arriving in Vietnam in April 1968, Paul studied Viet Cong tactics and maneuvers at the 199th Light Infantry Brigade’s Training Center REDCATCHER. Serving as radiophone operator for the Forward Artillery Observation Officer with the Headquarters and Service Battalion, 40th Artillery, Paul drowned under combat conditions on 29 July 1968. After a full military funeral at the gravesite on 10 August 1968, interment occurred at the Hebron Cemetery, Graves County, Kentucky.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

*The Collection.*

*The Courier-Journal.*

**COLLECTION NOTE**

The collection consists of fifteen letters received by Paul’s father, Loyd Simpson Aton, after his arrival at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in November 1967, until nine days prior to his death on 29 July 1968. The telegrams and letters, 1968 (21 items), detail the information the family received following Paul’s death. Related materials include certificates for the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, photographs, military papers and published army regulations.
### SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>ATON, Paul Douglas</th>
<th>1948-1991</th>
<th>265 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Biographical data, inventory and separation sheet</td>
<td>1948-2004</td>
<td>14 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to father; letter to friend, May 17, 1968; photographs; military currency</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>15 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters and telegrams to Loyd Aton concerning his son’s death; two letters about Paul’s basic training and work as colonel’s orderly</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>24 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Photographs and certificates</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>145 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Certificates and news clippings</td>
<td>1948-1989</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Military papers – Scores, equipment requisitions, etc.</td>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>23 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Funeral book and U.S. Army publications</td>
<td>1964-1968</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Miscellaneous items</td>
<td>1967-2007</td>
<td>20 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Aton’s Gideons New Testament</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Reel-to-reel recording of popular music during the Vietnam War era marked “Sounds of War and Peace”</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

82  1948-1968

Vietnam War letters written by Paul Douglas
Aton to his father Loyd Aton, of Franklin, Kentucky,
documenting his training at Fort Campbell, Fort Gordon,
and Fort Sill and his war experiences. 9 November 1967
to 20 July 1968. Includes family’s notification of his death
and burial information.
1 box. 8 folders. 265 items. Originals, photographs,
and reel-to-reel audio tape.
1991.109.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Aton, Loyd Simpson, 1911-2004
Aton, Loyd Simpson, 1911-2004 – Photos F4
Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 – Photos F2&4
Aton, Roberta Patricia (Townsend), 1916-1955 – Photos F4
Bibles F10
Drawings F9
Fort Campbell, 1967
Funeral books – Aton, Paul Douglas, 1948-1968 F7
Medals, Military and naval
Military currency, 1968 F2
Military education – Basic training, 1967
Military funerals, 1968
Military supplies, 1968
Motion pictures and the war – Vietnam War, 1961-1975 F2
Powers, Lonnie
Report cards – Mount Clemens, Michigan F2
Report cards – L-Anse Creuse, Michigan F2
Simpson County – Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Soldiers from
Soldiers, 1967-1968
Soldiers’ bodies, Disposition of, 1968
United States – Army – Artillery
United States – Army – Handbook, manuals, etc. F7
United States – Medals, badges, decorations, etc.
United States – Army – Pay, allowances, etc.
Vaccinations – Relating to F1
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Desertions
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Motion pictures and the war
Vietnam War Memorial – Washington, D.C. – Relating to F8
Vietnam War, 1961-1975 – Photographs F4
War – Psychological aspects, 1968

Jeffrey 02/20/2020